

POSTERIOR PRAYER

With grief to set a woman wild,
 She sought and clasped the marble child,—
 'Till her heart against his bosom
 Was broken, beating on a stone!
 "O God!" she cried, in her despair,
 "Why hast thou made my prayer?"
 Then answered He, "As I have willed,
 Thy prayer, O woman, is fulfilled!"
 "If on the earth thy child remain,
 His soul shall gather many a stain;
 "At thy behest, I stretch my hand
 And take him to the heavenly land."
 The mother heard and bowed her head,
 And hid her mourning in her breast;
 And cried, "O God! I do not pray—
 Thou answerest in so strange a way."
 In shadow of a taper's light,
 She moaned through out all the living night;
 But when the morning broke the sun
 Rose, bright, "Thy will, O God, be done!"
 — Thomas

TWICE MARRIED.

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